(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the arrangements made by Government to provide subsidy to the cotton growers in the event of crisis and to increase the purchase price for their crop in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A group of the Members of Parliameut from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in which they demanded subsidy for cotton growers and to increase the purchase price for their crop. The Ministry of Agriculture provided required inputs to the Prime Minister Office in March, 2007.

(c) With a view to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers, the Government of India announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for varieties of cotton every year on the basis of the recommendations of Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The MSP for the two basic varieties of cotton in the country are given below for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08:

(Rs. per Quintal)

Cotton variety	Minimum Support Price (MSP) 2006-07	2007-08	Increase in MSP in 2007-08 over 2006-07
F-41/H-777/J-34	1770	1800	30
H4	1990	2030	40

Corporate farming

1990. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are lots of shortcomings while promoting corporate farming in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are taking any initiatives for making long term transparent policies for making corporate farming successful in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken or proposed to set up strong systems to moitor contracts and corporate farming so as to avoid exploitation of the workers/growers and farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHUR1A): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture is promoting contract farming in the country, in which corporate agencies or others enter into agreement, of purchase of agricultural produce with the producers, but, it is not promoting corporate farmmg m the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise with respect to corporate farming, however, in order to put required systems in place for contract farming arrangements, suitable

provisions have been included in the Model Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2003 and circulated to the State Governments for considering suitable amendments in their concerned Act by adopting those provisions. The Model Act provided for the registration of contract farming sponsors and recording of contract farming agreements with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee or a prescribed authority under the Act, protection of title or rights of the farmers over the land under such contracts, dispute settlement mechanism and a model draft agreement suggesting various terms and conditions. By now, relevant provisions have been made by several State Governments in their respective APMC Acts for providing a legal framework to contract farming. In seven States/Union Territories there are no APMC Acts, therefore, there is no regulation of contract farming in such States/ UTs. The Model Act circulated by the Ministry is suggestive in nature, and, since Agriculture is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to, decide on the implementation of the contract farming arrangements in their State.

Combating hunger through investment in agriculture

1991. SHRI B.K. HAR1PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director-General of FAO of the UN has recently commented while in India that India needs to strengthen its efforts to combat hunger through more investments in agriculture;

(b) whether India has succeeded to reduce its share of hungry people from 39 per cent to 20 per cent;

(c) whether according to FAO statistics for the year 2006, one in four persons remained hungry in India as compared to one in five in China; and,

(d) what are the steps being taken to increase investments in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In his speech delivered at M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation's Conference held in Chennai on 07-08-07, Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mentioned that investments in agriculture, and more broadly in the rural economy, are often prerequisites for accelerated hunger reduction. In his earlier speech on 06-08-07 at New Delhi, he pointed out that out of total hungry people of the world, one in four are found in India and one in five are found in China.

According to *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* brought out by the FAO, the proportion of undernourished (hungry) in total population of India has come down from 38 per cent in 1979-81 to 20 per cent in 2001-03.

(d) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan has envisaged that overall agricultural investment would need to be about 16 per cent of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with public investment contributing 4 to 5 per cent during the Eleventh Plan.